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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board

Compendium of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2018

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2018/1
Country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Ghana, Jordan and Mauritania (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.1-E/ICEF/2018/P/L.3) were made available to Member States for their comments and input from 13 November to 1 December 2017 and that the common country programme document, including the aggregate indicative budget, for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1) was made available to Member States for their comments and input from 30 October to 17 November 2017, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1 on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis and in accordance with decision 2014/1 the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Ghana, Jordan and Mauritania (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.1-E/ICEF/2018/P/L.3) and the common country programme document, including the aggregate indicative budget, for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1).

First regular session
6 February 2018

2018/2
Evaluation report and management response, road map to a revision of the evaluation policy of UNICEF and plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation synthesis report entitled "Towards improved emergency responses: synthesis of UNICEF evaluations of humanitarian action 2010–2016" and its executive summary (E/ICEF/2018/4), including its findings, conclusions and recommendations;

2. *Welcomes* the management response to the evaluation synthesis report (E/ICEF/2018/5), including actions to improve performance in humanitarian contexts and strengthen policy guidance and programming;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to provide an update to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2019 on the implementation of the actions to which UNICEF committed in its management response to the evaluation synthesis report;

4. *Welcomes* the plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021 (E/ICEF/2018/3);

5. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to draw on lessons learned from previous reviews, evaluation reports and management responses to ensure the effectiveness of planned evaluations;

6. *Also requests* UNICEF to present with each evaluation report a formal management response setting out actions and a timetable for implementation;

7. *Further requests* UNICEF to include in the annual report on the evaluation function in UNICEF the details of the implementation of recommendations set out in evaluation reports and agreed to in management responses, in order to monitor progress, including any implementation issues;

8. *Requests* UNICEF to seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming as well as the common chapter of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;

9. *Endorses* the plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021;

10. *Welcomes* the preparation of the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF, including plans for consultation with Member States; requests UNICEF to take on-board guidance from previous decisions, evaluations, reports and reviews to improve the independence, credibility, effectiveness, resources and utility of the evaluation function; and also requests UNICEF to present the policy for consideration and decision at the annual session of 2018.

First regular session
7 February 2018

2018/3
UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 and report of the Board of Auditors

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016 (A/72/5/Add.3) as well as recommendations from prior years;

2. *Notes* the 2016 unqualified audit opinion issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for UNICEF;

3. *Also notes* the finding of the Board of Auditors that UNICEF has, in recent years, taken steps to strengthen financial and managerial control over its operations;

4. *Encourages* UNICEF to prioritize the implementation of the seven main audit recommendations identified by the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

5. *Also encourages* UNICEF to fully address outstanding recommendations from previous reports of the Board of Auditors, and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle areas of recurring audit recommendations;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to continue its efforts to prevent and detect instances of fraud, to thoroughly review the underlying circumstances that led to the cases of fraud in order to minimize future risks and to take steps to improve actions for the recovery of funds;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to provide a separate management response to the key findings and recommendations of the annual report of the Board of Auditors, and to submit this report to the Executive Board, along with the annual report of the Board of Auditors, starting with the first regular session of 2019.

First regular session
7 February 2018

2018/4

Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2018 workplan and proposed budget

A. Private Fundraising and Partnerships budgeted expenses for the 2018 fiscal year (special purpose)

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* for the fiscal year 2018 (1 January to 31 December) budgeted special purpose expenses of $223 million, as detailed in the table below.

(Millions of United States dollars)

Investment fund costs funded by special purpose regular resources	105.0
Other private sector fundraising costs funded by special purpose regular resources	64.4
Total private sector fundraising and partnership costs funded by special purpose regular resources	**169.4**
Private sector fundraising and partnership costs funded by special purpose other resources	**53.6**
Total special purpose expenses	**223.0**

2. *Authorizes* UNICEF

(a) To incur expenses, as summarized in column II of table 3 of the document E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.1, and to decrease or increase expenses up to the levels indicated in columns I and III of the same table, should the apparent revenue from fundraising decrease or increase to the levels indicated in columns I and III;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various regular resources budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1, above), up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2018 approved workplan;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to identify and respond to new market opportunities, should they arise, between Executive Board sessions and to notify the Board accordingly;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to present, as part of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, a review of the impact of its non-financial engagement with the private sector and, in 2021, a review of the impact of the investment funds.

B. Budgeted revenue for the year 2018

The Executive Board

Notes that, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018, Private Fundraising and Partnerships revenue is budgeted at $1.6 billion, as shown in column II of table 3 of document E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.1.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the allocation of investment funds amounting to $105 million for 2018;

2. *Also approves* an interim one-month allocation for January 2019 of $16.9 million (or 10 per cent of the special purpose regular resources allocation of $169.4 million), to be absorbed in the annual Private Fundraising and Partnerships budget for 2019.

First regular session
7 February 2018